

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) An adhesive binding member for use in binding a stack of sheets, said binding member having reduced transverse curl and made in accordance with the following method:

providing a substrate having a first axis and transverse axis normal to the first axis and a pair of substrate edges parallel to the first axis;

applying a layer of molten, heat-activated adhesive over ~~[[a]]~~ an elongated surface region of the substrate, ~~substantially along a full length of the substrate along the first axis~~ with the elongated surface region extending along the first axis, intermediate the parallel edges:

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling and prior to application of the binding member to a stack to be bound, mechanically deforming a surface of the layer of adhesive to a degree such that curling of the binding member along the transverse axis is substantially reduced.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 2 wherein the mechanically deforming includes applying multiple grooves to the surface of the layer of adhesive.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) An adhesive binding member for binding a stack of sheets comprising:

a substrate having a first axis disposed along a length of the substrate and a transverse axis normal to the first axis; and

a layer of heat-activated adhesive disposed on a first surface of the substrate substantially along a full length of the substrate, having an exposed surface containing mechanical deformities which were introduced into the adhesive when the adhesive was is in a cooled state and of a nature to substantially reduce curling of the binding member along the transverse axis; ~~and~~

~~with a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first surface of the substrate, being substantially smooth in at least some of the second surface regions that are opposite the mechanical deformities in the adhesive.~~

7. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 6 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of grooves formed in the exposed surface.

8. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 7 wherein the grooves extend at least 20% of the way through the total thickness of the adhesive layer.

9. (Currently Amended) The adhesive binding member of Claim 8 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal first axis.

10. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 6 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of punctures in the exposed surface.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A binding member applied to a stack of sheets using a binding machine and formed in accordance with the following method comprising:

providing a substrate having a first axis and transverse axis normal to the first axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over a surface of the substrate substantially a full length of the substrate along the first axis;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the adhesive layer is in a solid state;

subsequent to the cooling, mechanically deforming an exposed surface of the adhesive layer to an extent such that curling of the substrate ~~about~~ along the transverse axis is substantially reduced, thereby forming a binding member; and

subsequent to the mechanically deforming, applying the binding member to an edge of a stack of sheets using a binding machine by application of heat so as to bind the stack, with the adhesive extending along an entire length of the stack edge.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A binder strip having reduced transverse curl and made in accordance with the following method comprising:

providing ~~an elongated~~ a substrate having a ~~longitudinal~~ first axis and transverse axis normal to the ~~longitudinal~~ first axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over a surface of the substrate ~~substantially a full length of the substrate~~ along the longitudinal axis;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the adhesive layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling, forming a multiplicity of grooves in an exposed surface of the adhesive layer; and

~~wherein the elongated substrate includes~~ with the binder strip including a pair of opposing ~~substrate~~ binder strip edges parallel to the longitudinal axis with the ~~substrate~~ binder strip edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the ~~substrate~~ binder strip by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Presently Amended) An adhesive binder strip for binding a stack of sheets comprising:

an elongated substrate having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis; and

a layer of heat-activated adhesive disposed on a surface of the substrate and extending substantially [the] a full length of the substrate along the longitudinal axis, with the layer having a multiplicity of grooves formed in an exposed surface of the adhesive which extend at least 20% of the way through a thickness of the layer of adhesive and wherein the elongated substrate includes a pair of opposing substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive, with the adhesive covering at least a majority of the surface of the substrate.

20. (Currently amended) An adhesive binding member for binding an edge of a stack and having reduced transverse curl, said binding member made in accordance with the following method:

providing a substrate having an elongated region for receiving an adhesive, said elongated region ~~extending substantially along a~~ having a length sufficient to extend a full length of the edge of a stack bound by the binding member, with said elongated region having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over substantially all of the elongated region of the substrate;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling and prior to application of the binder member to a stack to be bound, mechanically deforming a surface of the layer of adhesive to a degree such that curling of the binder member along the transverse axis is substantially reduced.

21. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 20 wherein the mechanically deforming includes applying multiple grooves to the surface of the layer of adhesive.

22. (Currently Amended) An adhesive binding member for binding an edge of a stack of sheets comprising:

a substrate having an elongated region for receiving an adhesive on a first substrate surface, said elongated region having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the elongated axis, with the elongated region extending along substantially a full length of the edge of the stack after binding; and

a layer of heat-activated adhesive disposed over substantially all of the elongated region, with the layer having an exposed surface containing mechanical deformities of a nature to substantially reduce curling of the binding member along the transverse axis, wherein the first surface of the substrate and a second surface of the substrate opposite the first surface [is] are both substantially smooth in at least some all of the second substrate surface regions directly opposite the mechanical deformities in the adhesive.

23. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 22 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of grooves formed in the exposed surface.

24. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 23 wherein the grooves extend at least 20% of the way through the total thickness of the adhesive layer.

25. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 24 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

26. (Previously presented) The adhesive binder strip of Claim 22 wherein the mechanical deformities include a multiplicity of punctures in the exposed surface.

27. (Currently amended) The adhesive binding member of Claim 2 wherein the ~~binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate, with the first axis being a longitudinal axis of the elongated substrate and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive~~ a second surface of the substrate, opposite the elongated surface on which the adhesive is disposed, are both substantially smooth substrate surfaces.

28. (Presently amended) The binder strip of Claim 6 wherein the second surface of the substrate [is] along with the first surface of the substrate are both substantially smooth in all of the ~~second~~ substrate surface regions directly opposite the mechanical deformities in the adhesive.

29. (Previously presented) The binder strip of Claim 6 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate, with the first axis being a longitudinal axis of the elongated substrate and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with

the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

30. (Currently Amended) The binder strip of Claim 19 wherein the adhesive is disposed on a first surface of the substrate and wherein a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first surface, [is] along with the first surface are both substantially smooth in at least some of the ~~second~~ substrate surface regions that are directly opposite the grooves in the adhesive.

31. (Currently amended) The binder strip of Claim 30 wherein both the ~~second surface~~ surfaces of the substrate [is] are substantially smooth in all of the ~~second~~ surface regions opposite the adhesive.

32. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 31 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

33. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 22 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate, with the first axis being a longitudinal axis of the elongated substrate and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

34. (Currently amended) The binder strip of Claim 33 wherein both the ~~second surface~~ first and second surfaces of the substrate [is] are substantially smooth in all of the ~~second~~ surface regions opposite the adhesive.

35. (Newly presented) The binder strip of Claim 29 wherein the first substrate surface and a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first substrate surface,

are both substantially smooth in all of surface regions directly opposite the mechanical deformations in the adhesive.

36. (Newly presented) The binder strip of Claim 2 wherein the mechanically deforming is carried out without removal of a significant amount of the adhesive.

37. (Newly presented) The binder strip of Claim 14 wherein the forming a multiplicity of grooves is carried out without removal of a significant amount of the adhesive.

38. (Newly presented) The binder strip of Claim 20 wherein the mechanically deforming is carried out without removal of a significant amount of the adhesive.